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able, and wonderfully patient and industrious,—as Bayley, Chitty, and Story,—but no treatise has commanded so immediate and so continued regard from the bar as Serjeant Byles's. The learned American editor has judged well in annotating a treatise less cumbrous than Chitty, more neat and exact than Story, and more modern than Bayley, and perhaps quite as meritorious. The editorial department leaves little to be desired. The cases have been selected, and arranged, and digested with a view of aiding and illustrating the principles stated in the text: the work is neither encumbered with copious cases, cheaply borrowed from the Digests, nor is it swollen by an amplified discussion of the grounds of the cases familiar to all practitioners, and to be found in the horn-books of the law.

This book is one of a series which the worthy publishers are now presenting to us, edited by professional men of known mark, and juridical and scholar-like attainments. The old system of sending forth English books, cheaply printed, and carelessly and sparsely annotated, will no longer do. The improved systems of legal education, and the higher and better standard of legal attainments, demand improved works for study and reference; and the publishers judge wisely and do well, when they entrust their editorial duties to competent and well-paid men, whose professional pride and honest love for law as a study, aid and cheer them in their labors.

A Digest of the Laws of Pennsylvania, from the year one thousand seven hundred, to the twenty-eighth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three. The first four editions by the late John Purdon, Esq. The fifth, sixth and Seventh by the Hon. George M. Stroud. Eighth edition, revised with marginal references, foot notes to the Judicial Decisions, analytical contents, a digested syllabus of each title, and a new, full and exhaustive Index. By Frederick Brightly, Esq., author of "the Law of Costs," "Nisi Prius Reports," etc. Philadelphia: James Kay, Jr. & Brother, 193 Market street, Law Booksellers & Publishers, 1853. pp. 1050.

At length we have an edition of Purdon's Digest, which meets the universal approbation of the profession throughout our entire state. Perhaps no book ever commanded such a uniformity of opinion at once. When Collinson Reed, fifty-two years ago, prepared his alphabetical arrangement of our laws, and printed them in a small thin volume; he little imagined, that in half a century, we should require one thousand and fifty pages of

closest type, and most liberal page to contain our legislation and appurtenant matter. Seven previous editions of Purdon, attest its great and universal favor. This, the eighth edition, possesses many new and valuable improvements; it has a marginal reference to each section; it has the references to judicial decisions placed at the foot of the page; it has the table of contents, much subdivided, a great matter in a digest: it has the index full and comprehensive; and lastly, it has been furnished at a moderate price, within the reach of all.

Perhaps it would not be becoming in journalists like ourselves, to say much of a work which bears upon its first pages an ample certificate of merit, from those most competent to judge, the members of the Supreme Bench of Pennsylvania.

The publishers have also favored us with a circular, containing letters of approval by many Judges in Pennsylvania, from the Supreme Court of the United States, to the inferior magistracy. But one voice is to be found, either by bench or bar. And, indeed, one who will take the pains to examine any of the long titles, such as "Decedent's Estates," "Execution," "Justices of the Peace," "Taxes," &c., cannot fail to be struck with the vast labor and exemplary diligence of the learned editor. Nothing in the shape of judicial decision in our Courts, seems to have escaped him; we have many manuscript decisions, some as late as the end of October last. And, certainly, for the practical purposes of the profession and the citizen, no book can approach Mr. Brightley's edition of our laws, as now given to us by our friends, the Messrs. Kay.

Something is due to the publishers for their laudable efforts to compress the mass of our statutes within a reasonable compass, so that we may have a volume which it is possible to handle, and to consult with some degree of comfort. The size of the type has been reduced, but it is nevertheless very clear, and quite as legible as any former edition. The marginal abstracts lessen materially the labour of any one wishing to consult this volume. It is only necessary to run one's eye along the margin to be fully informed as to the contents of the entire page. This aid to the reader, which is universal in English books, is seldom found in American ones, because it adds materially to the expense of the publisher; and heretofore *cheapness* has been consulted, to the exclusion of other and quite as important considerations; though we hope a new era has now dawned upon us. We can earnestly, and with great confidence, commend these valuable labors of the learned editor equally to the observation of lawyers and laymen.